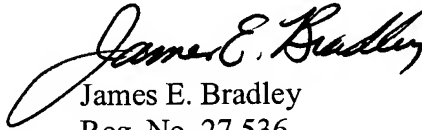


REMARKS

This application is a continuation of S.N. 09/869,661, filed June 29, 2001. A first office action in the '661 application was mailed October 3, 2002. In the first office action some of the claims were withdrawn as being subject to a restriction requirement, and the elected claims were rejected. After viewing the prior art, Applicant decided he wished to pursue the non-elected claims, rather than respond to the rejection of the elected claims. Applicant consequently filed a request for continued examination on April 3, 2003, along with a request for extension of time.

On June 20, 2003, the Examiner mailed an office action contending that it is improper to file a request for continued examination in order to have non-elected claims examined. Applicant is therefore filing this continuation application under 1.78(a). Applicant is also filing a request to extend the time to respond for one month.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 19, 2003
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